PATENT 10/1/99
attorney Docket No. 8636

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Gelfand et al.

RECEIVED

Serial No.: 07/873,897

OCT -7 1999

Filed: April 24,1992

Examiner: D. Naff

Art Unit: 1651

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For: PURIFIED THERMOSTABLE ENZYME

SECOND SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §1.97

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Attorneys for Applicants submit this Second Supplemental Information

Disclosure Statement to bring to the Examiner's attention the references listed on the attached revised form PTO 1449 entitled "List of References Cited by Applicant," copies of which references are being submitted herewith, as well as certain papers and expert declarations filed during proceedings in foreign jurisdictions concerning counterparts of the captioned application, and certain inequitable conduct allegations made during the litigation of a patent related to the captioned application.

Identification of the listed references is not to be construed an admission of Applicants or Attorneys for Applicants that such references are available as "prior art" against the subject application. Consequently, Applicants respectfully decline to use form PTO-1449, since this form identifies all of the references cited therein as "Prior Art". As an alternative, Applicants submit herewith a "revised form PTO 1449" entitled "List of References Cited" instead of "List of Prior Art Cited".

The references listed on the accompanying List of References Cited were brought to Applicants' attention in proceedings in Australia, Europe and Japan concerning foreign counterparts of the captioned application. During these proceedings, many of these references were alleged to be relevant to claims similar to those pending in the present application. These references have been reviewed and, for the reasons discussed in detail below, it is believed that these references fall outside the scope of material information for which there is a duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, because these references are either cumulative to, or are less relevant than, the references already of record in the captioned application. Nevertheless, because there is a likelihood that any patent issuing on the above-captioned application will be asserted against infringers, and because there is almost a certainty that accused infringers in patent litigations will raise all possible inequitable conduct allegations, no matter how flimsy, the Assignee and Applicants wish to bring the enclosed materials to the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office.

During the lengthy appeal of this case, the Assignee and some of the Applicants of the captioned application have been engaged in defending inequitable conduct allegations that have been made in the litigation of United States patent No. 4,889,818 (the "818 patent"),² which issued from application Serial No. 07/069,509, filed June 17, 1987, of which the

The litigation is currently pending in the Northern District of California, *Hoffmann-LaRoche Inc. and Roche Molecular Systems, Inc. v. Promega Corporation*, Civil Action No. C-93-1748 VRW ("Roche v. Promega '818 Patent Litigation"). The parties are presently awaiting a decision of the Court after a trial on inequitable conduct which took place in February, 1999.

grandparent of the captioned application is a continuation-in-part application.³ The claims of the '818 patent relate to a purified, thermostable DNA polymerase from *Thermus aquaticus*, both the native and recombinant forms. The inequitable conduct allegations against the '818 patent, which are fully discussed in materials submitted herewith (see, *infra* at page 7) are not believed to be relevant to the patentability of the subject matter claimed in the instant application.

Having had the experience in the litigation of the '818 patent of being subjected to numerous, spurious inequitable conduct allegations, it is out of an abundance of caution and desire to foreclose any allegations that Applicants or their representatives, in any way, intended to withhold material information from the Patent Office, that Applicants and their Assignee respectfully request that the references cited herein, which are not believed to be material, be made of record in the captioned application.

In Information Disclosure Statements filed in the present application and its parent, Serial No. 07/387,003, Applicants brought to the Examiner's attention, *inter alia*, references relating to thermostable polymerase compositions, including compositions containing stabilizers other than non-ionic detergents, such as gelatin and BSA. Additionally, the Examiner cited and rejected claims over references disclosing non-thermostable reverse

The present application is a file wrapper continuation of application Serial No. 07/387,003, filed July 28, 1989, which is a divisional of application Serial No. 07/143,441, filed January 12, 1988, which is a continuation-in-part of application Serial No., 07/063,509, filed June 17, 1987, which issued as the '818 patent.

See the Information Disclosure Statements Under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98 filed on May 7, 1990 in parent application Serial No. 07/387,003 and on July 24, 1992 in the present application.

transcriptases, the purification of which involves buffers containing non-ionic detergents.⁵

Applicants also brought to the Examiner's attention a reference relating to non-thermostable reverse transcriptases (Wu and Cetta, 1975, *Biochemistry* 14:789-795 ("Wu and Cetta")).⁶ In the Amendment dated January 15, 1993 in the present application, Applicants pointed out that Wu and Cetta discloses that non-ionic detergents stimulate the activity of viral reverse transcriptase but that non-ionic detergents had no effect on the activity of three mammalian cellular reverse transcriptases or a purified, bacterial reverse transcriptase, effectively teaching away from the present invention.

All of the references cited herein are believed to be either cumulative to, or less relevant than, the references cited either by Applicants or by the Examiner earlier during the prosecution of the present application. Specifically, the following references are believed to be cumulative to the references cited by Applicants and the Examiner relating to non-thermostable reverse transcriptases:

Ohno et al. (1977) Purification and characterization of the DNA polymerase of human breast cancer particles. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 74:764-768;

Verma and Baltimore (1974) Purification of the RNA-Directed DNA Polymerase from Avian Myeloblastosis Virus and Its Assay with Polynucleotide Templates. *Methods in Enzymology* 24:124;

See the Office Action dated September 4, 1990, in parent application Serial No. 07/387,003 and accompanying PTO form 892, and Office Action dated July 15, 1992 of the present application.

See Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement Under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, dated January 15, 1993, filed in the present application.

Ghosh et al. (1980) Determination of RNA Sequences by Primer Directed Synthesis and Sequencing of their cDNA Transcripts. *Methods in Enzymology* 65:59; and

Faras et al. (1972) Purification and Characterization of the Deoxyribonucleic Acid Polymerase Associated with Rous Sarcoma Virus. *Biochemistry* 11:2334-2342.

(Cited as references AP, BZ, CI, and CK, respectively, on the accompanying List of References Cited). These references, like certain of the references cited by the Examiner during prosecution (for example, Feller et al. (U.S. patent No. 4,409,200), Spiegelman (U.S. patent No. 4,379,839), and Goff et al. (U.S. patent No. 4,943,531)), relate to non-thermostable reverse transcriptases which, at some point during their purification, are in buffers containing non-ionic detergents. It is believed that none of references AP, BZ, CI or CK provide any new, relevant information not already found in the references of record in the present application.

The other references listed on the accompanying List of References Cited are believed to be less relevant than the references already of record in the present application because they provide either very general background information or relate to compositions of proteins containing non-ionic detergents that are not even polymerase enzymes, much less thermostable polymerase enzymes. Since the Examiner has considered what is believed to be much closer prior art, it is believed that these other references are not material to the patentability of the claims of the present application. However, for the reasons discussed above, Applicants and their Assignee respectfully request that the cited references be made of record in the file history of the application.

Also in an abundance of caution, Applicants hereby bring to the Examiner's attention the documents listed below (copies of which are submitted herewith) which have been

filed by Opponents in Opposition proceedings in European and Australian counterparts of the captioned application:

- 1. Request for Opposition of European Patent No. EP-B-0 258 017 by Bioline Limited;
- 2. Request for Opposition of European Patent No. EP-B-0 258 017 by Promega Corporation;
- 3. Declaration of Professor Emeritus Arthur Kornberg from European Opposition Proceedings;
- 4. Declaration of Dr. Randall Dimond from European Opposition Proceedings;
- 5. Affidavit of David James Kemp from Australian Proceedings (see particularly §§ 6.28-6.31 and 12);
- 6. Affidavit of Bruce Ernest Kemp from Australian Proceedings (see particularly § 4);
- 7. Affidavit of Lynn Dalgarno from Australian Proceedings (see particularly §§ 4.15-4.20 and 9);
- 8. Affidavit of Stephen Donald Wilton from Australian Proceedings (see particularly § 12.24-12.26);
- 9. Declaration of Randall Dimond from Australian Proceedings;
- 10. Declaration of Ira Shildkraut from Australian Proceedings;
- 11. Declaration of Arthur Kornberg from Australian Proceedings;
- 12. Declaration of Richard Roberts from Australian Proceedings;
- 13. Declaration of Robert Scopes from Australian Proceedings (signed September 2, 1993);

- 14. Declaration of Robert Scopes from Australian Proceedings (signed February 9, 1996) (see particularly pages 56-67); and
- 15. Declaration of Nicholas Dixon from Australian Proceedings.

It is believed that the materials listed above do not raise issues that have not already been considered during the lengthy prosecution of the captioned application. However, for the reasons discussed above with respect to the references cited herein, Applicants and their Assignee desire to make these materials of record in the file history of the present application.

In addition, as discussed briefly above, Applicants also bring to the Examiner's attention that allegations of inequitable conduct have been raised during the Roche v. Promega '818 Patent Litigation. Applicants provide herewith copies of the pre-trial and post-trial briefs from a bench trial on the issue of inequitable in the Roche v. Promega '818 Patent Litigation held in February 1999, which briefs summarize Promega's inequitable conduct allegations and Roche's response to these allegations. Due to the significant volume of documents, Applicants have not submitted the entire record from the trial or any Exhibits to the briefs nor Summary Judgment papers also relating to the issue of inequitable conduct. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants if he would like any additional information or documentation. To date, a decision has not been issued by the Court. It is believed that Promega Corporation's allegations

Additionally, in a telephone conversation with the undersigned, the Examiner indicated that he did not believe such papers and expert declarations filed in foreign proceedings were relevant to the patentability of U.S. counterpart applications.

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of inequitable conduct are baseless, and, in addition, relate to alleged misrepresentations and omissions that are not relevant to the patentability of the claims of the captioned application.⁸

Accordingly, even though it is believed that there is no duty under 37 C.F.R. §

1.56 to bring any of the information, references and documents discussed herein to the

Examiner's attention, for the reasons discussed above, Applicants hereby request that the

information provided above be made of record in the captioned application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 1, 1999

<u>-, 35,321</u>

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Enclosures

The Examiner also indicated to the undersigned that such inequitable conduct allegations were not relevant to the patentability of the captioned application.

LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT

APPLICATION NO.	
07/873,897	
APPLICANT	1
Gelfand et al.	
FILING DATE	GROUP
April 24 1992	1651

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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.